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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: A-70493/RMS/AXG/SRN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

RHINE et al.

Serial No. 09/676,512

Filed: October 02, 2000

For: MICROFLUIDIC DEVICES
HAVING EMBEDDED METAL
CONDUCTORS AND METHODS
OF FABRICATING SAID
DEVICES

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3753

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT OF RELATEDNESS

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant wishes to draw the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the references cited on the accompanying form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are enclosed herewith.

With respect to patent applications, the applicants point out their duty under M.P.E.P. §2001.06(b) to disclose relevant patent applications of which they are aware. To this end, the applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the following patent applications;

1. U.S.S.N. 08/312,388, filed September 26, 1994, now Patent Number 5,620,850; U.S.S.N. 08/786,187, filed January 21, 1997; U.S.S.N. 09/296,111, filed April 21,

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1999, now Patent Number 6,197,515; U.S.S.N. 09/296,078, filed April 21, 1999; and U.S.S.N. 09/915,187, filed July 25, 2001.

2. U.S.S.N. 08/786,153, filed January 21, 1997, now abandoned; U.S.S.N. 08/804,883, filed February 24, 1997, now abandoned; and U.S.S.N. 08/843,623, filed April 10, 1997.

3. United States Serial Number 08/743,798, filed November 5, 1996, now Patent Number 6,096,273; U.S.S.N. 08/873,978, filed June 12, 1997; U.S.S.N. 08/899,510, July 24, 1997, now Patent Number 6,221,583; U.S.S.N. 08/911,085, filed August 14, 1997, now Patent Number 6,090,933; U.S.S.N. 09/557,577, filed April 21, 2000; and U.S.S.N. 09/577,429, filed May 22, 2000.

4. U.S.S.N. 08/808,750, filed February 28, 1997, now Patent Number 6,265,155; and U.S.S.N. 09/639,311, filed August 15, 2000, now Patent Number 6,291,188; U.S.S.N. 09/921,645, filed August 03, 2001.

5. U.S.S.N. 08/873,977, filed June 12, 1997, now Patent Number 6,013,459; 09/096,504, filed June 12, 1998, now Patent Number 6,013,170; U.S.S.N. 09/417,988, filed October 13, 1999, now Patent Number 6,248,229; U.S.S.N. 09/841,809, filed April 24, 2001.

6. U.S.S.N. 09/306,653, filed May 6, 1999 and U.S.S.N. 09/452,277, filed February 3, 1999.

7. U.S.S.N. 09/847,113, filed May 1, 2001.

8. U.S.S.N. 08/873,597, filed June 12, 1997; U.S.S.N. 08/911,589, filed August 14, 1997, now Patent Number 6,232,062; and U.S.S.N. 09/660,374, filed September 12, 2000.

9. U.S.S.N. 09/397,957, filed September 17, 1999.

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10. U.S.S.N. 09/014,304, filed January 27, 1998, now Patent Number 6,063,573.
11. U.S.S.N. 09/135,183, filed August 17, 1998.
12. U.S.S.N. 09/134,058, filed August 14, 1998, now Patent Number 6,290,839;
U.S.S.N. 09/338,726, filed June 23, 1999, now Patent Number 6,264,825; U.S.S.N.
09/440,371, filed November 12, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/520,477, filed March 8, 2000; and
U.S.S.N. 09/712,792, filed November 13, 2000.
13. U.S.S.N. 09/428,155, filed October 27, 1999.
14. U.S.S.N. 09/295,691, filed April 21, 1999.
15. U.S.S.N. 09/489,459, filed January 21, 2000.
16. U.S.S.N. 09/472,657, filed December 27, 1999.
17. U.S.S.N. 09/238,351, filed January 27, 1999 and 09/621,275 filed July 20,
2000.
18. U.S.S.N. 09/245,105, filed January 27, 1999.
19. U.S.S.N. 09/626,096, filed July 26, 2000.
20. U.S.S.N. 09/760,384, filed January 11, 2001, and U.S.S.N. 09/904,175,
filed July 11, 2001.
21. U.S.S.N. 08/166,036, filed December 10, 1993, now Patent Number
5,591,578; U.S.S.N. 08/475,051, filed June 7, 1995, now Patent Number 5,824,473;
U.S.S.N. 08/660,534, filed June 7, 1995, now Patent Number 5,770,369; U.S.S.N.
08/659,987, filed June 7, 1996, now abandoned; U.S.S.N. 08/709,265, filed September 6,
1996, now Patent Number 5,705,348; U.S.S.N. 08/709,263, filed September 6, 1996, now
Patent Number 5,780,235; U.S.S.N. 08/873,598, filed June 12, 1997, now Patent Number

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5,952,172; U.S.S.N. 08/946,679, filed October 8, 1997, now Patent Number 6,087,100; U.S.S.N. 09/100,507, filed June 19, 1998, now Patent Number 6,071,699; U.S.S.N. 09/306,749, filed May 7, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/306,737, filed May 7, 1999, now Patent Number 6,177,250; U.S.S.N. 09/306,768, filed May 7, 1999, now Patent Number 6,277,576; U.S.S.N. 09/454,498, filed December 6, 1999, now Patent Number 6,268,149; U.S.S.N. 09/459,751, filed December 10, 1999, now Patent Number 6,268,150; U.S.S.N. 09/459,191, filed December 10, 1999, now Patent Number 6,180,352; U.S.S.N. 09/454,497, filed December 6, 1999, now Patent Number 6,200,761; U.S.S.N. 09/458,187, filed December 8, 1999, now Patent Number 6,238,870; U.S.S.N. 09/545,227, filed April 7, 2000, now Patent Number 6,258,545; and U.S.S.N. 09/602,618, filed June 22, 2000; U.S.S.N. 09/845,746, filed April 30, 2001; and U.S.S.N. 09/866,067, filed May 23, 2001.

None of the foregoing references are believed to disclose the invention as claimed. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of any of the cited references, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

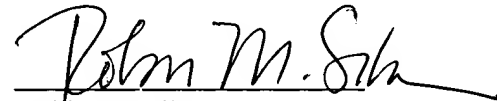
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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, within three months of the date of entry of a national stage, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), and therefore no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-70493/RMS/AXG/SRN).

Respectfully submitted,

FLEHR, HOHBACH, TEST,
ALBRITTON & HERBERT

Dated: 12/16/01



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